the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

July 2005, Number 411

DAYTON 2005

Just one piece of the Dayton Hamvention, still the largest hamfest in the world!

Photo by Gary KN4AQ

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

June has been a fairly exciting month so far. We kicked off with Jeff AC4ZO's great History of the Telegraph program at our club meeting. The Hurricane Awareness Fair followed soon after, along with our first named storm (what timing!) As of this writing, it doesn't look like Arlene will be too exciting, and I hope that holds true.

The month ends with Field Day, and I hope everyone will have had a chance to get out, or get on and operate the most popular Ham Radio event of the year. If you missed your chance, or you "caught the bug," there's another great opportunity coming up.

The IARU HF World Championship contest, the weekend of July 9-10, starting at 8AM Saturday, through 8AM Sunday. It fits in my category of "fun ones," where there are plenty of stations to work, a relatively level playing field (everyone's limited to 100 watts), and a chance to grab QSLs from some of the national Ham Radio organizations around the world (foreign equivalents of the ARRL.)

I hope that as Summer officially kicks off, you find time to relax and take a break from the NC heat and humidity, and perhaps you'll find yourself in front of your operating desk from time to time.

73! Andy

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***
Location: ***Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh***
Time: ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, July 5 2005 7:30 pm
Geo-caching – Tanner KB4TYE

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

RARS DUES

RARS dues are due on July 1, 2005. You can pay online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to

Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

FIRECRACKER 50/100K Cary, NC Monday July 4th. Need 12 hams for 7 hours, over by 2pm. Dick KD4ISC@arrl.net

MS-150 Sat-Sun September 10-11. 40 hams are needed. Please make your motel reservations NOW. Need 40 hams for 2 days.
Check website for accommodations http://nationalmssociety.org/nct/home/
CONTACT:
Bruce N8UTY <n8uty@arrl.net>, to volunteer.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

June 25-26	**FIELD DAY**
July 2	Salisbury, NC
July 16	**Cary, NC**
July 30	Waynesville, NC
August 13	Fayetteville, NC
September 3-4	Shelby, NC
October 9	Maysville, NC
November 20*	**Benson, NC**
December 3	Gastonia, NC
January 6, 2006*	Winston-Salem

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed

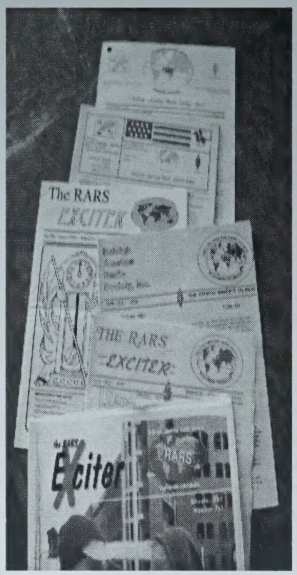
LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the July 1975 Exciter

QST and other amateur publications are going to a new size magazine. They will be 8 ½ x 11 which will begin the first of the year.

Effective July 11, 1975, more than two amateur repeaters will be permitted to be linked.

The antenna raising party on May 31, 1975 placed the club's newly acquired Stationmaster FM repeater antenna on the tower. The new RARS repeater is approaching test stage so our new system is not far off.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the July 1995 Exciter

The 147.39 repeater in Clayton is now linked to the 29.620 10-meter repeater in Wendell nearly full-time. There will soon be a single "beep" courtesy tone to identify when signals come in from 10. The Wilson 147.30 repeater simulcast will also have a unique courtesy tone to identify signals that come into 147.39 from that part of the world

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Mark Haskell	KI4AIW
Bruce Koebler	KB2LBR
Bill McMurray	K4SG
Mike Taylor	W3IJD
Ray Vasquez	K4RMV
Tom Woods	KI4ISG

NET REPORTS FOR MAY 2005

8:00pm DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 464
Traffic 30/25
Time 797 minutes
Sessions 31

8:30pm SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00pm MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 64
Traffic 0/0
Time 429 Minutes
Sessions 9

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

James	KE4DRN	07/03
Cathy	KA3QPU	07/09
Clayton	KE4DOX	07/11
Annette	KB4AQH	07/11
Frank	KE4ZNT	07/11
Jeff	KE4MEQ	07/13
Doug	AD4UL	07/14
Giff	KC4SAM	07/15
Camille	KI4CED	07/15
Al	AE4QV	07/16
Bob	K4RLC	07/19
Ruth	KE4DRI	07/23
Lee	WB4DRJ	07/25
Ferdinand	AD4RC	07/25
Charles	WB4DCM	07/26
Meme	KE4NGM	07/28
William	K4CIA	07/28
Victor	KE4MEL	07/28
Dave	W4YDY	07/29
John	KG4HDT	07/31

Dayton 2005
by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

As I was driving to the Dayton Hamvention this year, I talked to a ham on 40 meters who was in Dayton, but wasn't planning on going to the Hamfest. Seems his daughter had scheduled her wedding that weekend without consulting his blackout dates (seems to me his wife ought to have caught it, but evidently not). We'll assume the daughter was not a ham, and pity the poor groom if he is ever to become one. At least Dad doesn't have to worry about anniversaries falling on Dayton weekend.

(Come to think of it, Dayton weekend moved from April to May a decade or two back – hope they never move again and fall on my anniversary. I don't think Cyndi'd buy it, even though she is a ham.)

My point is that I think I talked to the only ham within 300 miles of Dayton who wasn't going. By the time you get as far as Raleigh, about 400 miles as the crow flies but more like 550 miles if the crow is driving, you get a little more selective. Cliff AG4XR made the trip with me, and we saw several hams from North Carolina, but I'd count us all among the elite. That bus that runs from the Triad area helps boost the Carolina count. To put us in perspective, though, hams come to Dayton from across the country and around the world. And they come for the Hamvention, not because they just happen to be traveling nearby.

I just heard on Newsline (broadcast on Sundays after the 8:00 net on 64) that attendance was up a little. I heard the usual grumbling from hams that it "seemed down." My theory is that because the weather was nearly ideal (a rare occurrence for Dayton, where Saturday has been a wash-out for at least the past decade), crowds were more evenly distributed between the huge flea market and the four indoor halls, giving everyone a little more elbow room. Friday dawned gray and foggy with a little intermittent drizzle, and people mentioned some gaps in the flea market. Saturday was sunny and mild, and the holes filled up. I haven't see hard numbers, but there were well over 20,000 hams there sometime over the three days.

Dayton, like most other hamfests, is well off its peak in the Roaring 90's, but it is still the largest hamfest in the world. It is still very impressive, and will still astound the first-timer. As I said, the flea-market is huge. It fills two thirds of the parking lot around the arena. (Exhibitors get the rest of the lot. Lowly attendees park in a mall a mile away and ride a bus, or take their chances in grass, or mud, lots across the street).

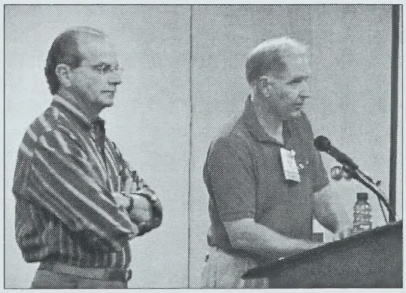
Inside, the Holy Trinity (Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu) have huge booths worthy of those big conventions like CES and NAB in Vegas. In past years they reserved major product announcements for Dayton (Icom debuted the $10,000 model 7800 at Dayton last year, though details of the radio had leaked months before. Yaesu previewed the FTDX-9000 in the same price class). This year, Icom's digital update of the old 706, numbered the IC-7000, was the biggest new radio. Yaesu had a new HT, while Kenwood had no new radios (but big promises).

Ten-Tec, Alinco, Elecraft, MFJ and other manufacturers are all there, too, just not as splashy. The antenna and accessory manufacturers have their own booths, and there are dealers who will sell you everything you see. I'd say that if it is made for or used in ham radio, you'll find it at Dayton.

Forums at Dayton are exceptional as well. Four rooms are kept busy all three days, and most forums are well attended. Some, like the FCC forum featuring Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH and Bill Cross W3TN, were standing-room-only. That forum may have gotten a boost from the rumor that they would reveal the FCC's plan for restructuring the ham license classes (remember the ARRL's proposal last year? Code-free Generals; end of the Tech license with automatic upgrade to General; new Novice with limited HF and VHF phone – yeah, that's the one!). That didn't happen, but we learned that the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on it should be out by the end of the year.

This year the ARRL held their National Convention at Dayton, and they went all-out. They took space that had been slowly becoming vacant in one exhibit hall and set up their own "ARRL Expo" with booths for every League activity and service. Traffic in the area was brisk all weekend.

So, should you go to Dayton next year? Oh, yes, absolutely. Unless your daughter is getting married that weekend.



Riley K4ZDH Bill W3TN

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for June 7, 2005

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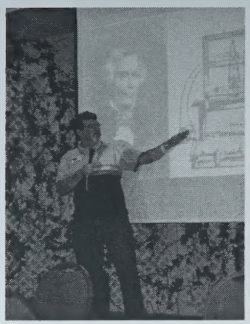


The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on June 7, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.
President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.
Gene Armistead, AI4GV and Paul Passey, WR7J were welcomed as guests to the meeting.
Hank Montgomery, K4HM, announced the RARSfest workers party will be held on Saturday, July 9th at Lake Wheeler Park in Raleigh. Emails requesting RSVPs have been sent to all workers. If you have not received the email, please contact Hank immediately. The party will be a covered dish picnic with RARS providing the meat. A contest will be held for the best covered dish. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

David Crawford, KF4VXJ, advised there will be an ARES activation this Saturday, June 10th at the Home Depot located in Cary. ARES will be conducting a demonstration for the Hurricane Preparedness Fair then. David will be arriving at 8 am for set up and the fair runs from 10 am until 2 pm.

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report and advised there are 278 members of RARS. He reminded the group that it's time for membership renewal and would be available during the meeting to collect dues. Greg then reviewed the proposed budget for the club's 2005-2006 fiscal year. Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, made a motion to adopt the proposed budget as presented. Hank Montgomery, K4HM, provided a second. The vote was taken and carried in favor of the motion.

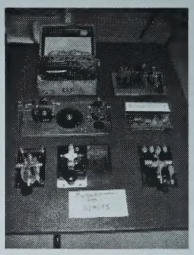
Neal Fisher, N4HAF, was asked to comment on Field Day. The event will take place during the weekend of June 25 – 26 with set up taking place on Friday the 24th. RARS will be returning to its usual Carroll field day site located off of US1 South. All are invited to participate and should check out the club website for directions, a list of band captains and other related information.

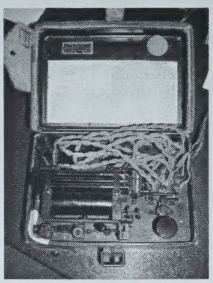
Dick Orander, KD4ISC, told the group about the arrival of his long awaited QSL from a special event station conducted by the Johnson Space Center. The card took almost 11 years to arrive! It appears the W5RRR club was overwhelmed by the number of hams asking for the special event card and could not afford to respond as originally intended. The club decided to respond, albeit a little late, with their own QSL. Dick used this story to remind the group that it's never too late to complete the final courtesy of a QSO and that you should by no means give up the hope of getting confirmation of your contacts.

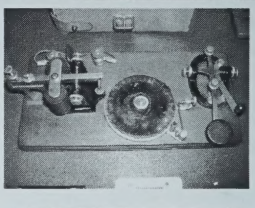
The floor was turned over to Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, who provided a fascinating presentation on the history of telegraphy. Jeff, along with other members of the club, provided a display table of various keys and telegraph related articles for the membership to review after the meeting. Gifford Moore, KC4SAM, provided some personal comments about the role of telegraphy in his life.

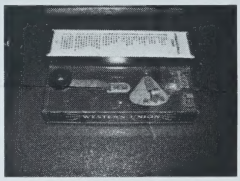
Door prizes were won by: K4MJL, KG4RMT, NC4DK, W5PGX, and K4RMV.

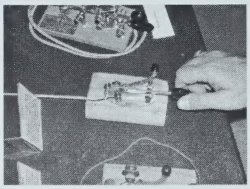
Attendance: 46
Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.
Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

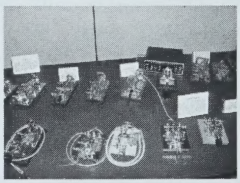


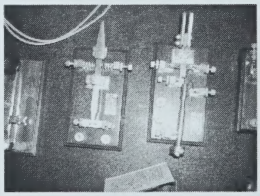


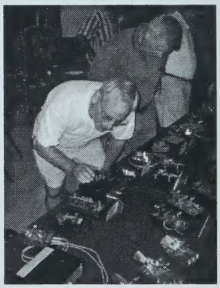












The 2nd annual Triangle Area NC Ride for Kids

Our Ride for Kids started from Cary Towne Center at 9 AM on Sunday May 15th. Led by the NC Highway Patrol's Motorcycle Division and 6 other law enforcement teams along the 50 mile scenic ride through central North Carolina, the riders enjoyed the lake views and country roads traveling to the end point in Sanford. Joining us were 9 patient survivors, their brothers & sisters, parents, and healthcare providers. However, adding to the 80 volunteers helping to coordinate this ride, 3 amateur radio operators volunteered their time & talent to provide communications to the end point at several points along the route. Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, was stationed at the front of the column to advise arrival at a checkpoint. Robin Keller, WA4WPD, was at the rear of the column to advise the last bike's departure from each checkpoint. Both were riding their Honda Goldwings and operating motorcycle mobile. Dick Orander KD4ISC, was operating portable at the end point and updating members of the ride taskforce as the column moved along the route.

As Taskforce Leader for this event, I wish to thank these amateur volunteers for their support. Although the weather was much better than last year, this communications support was a welcome addition to the ride. Since our event proceeds rain or shine , weather-related delays raise concerns for those at the end-point & including the parents of those patient survivors who are riding. This ongoing radio communications is reassuring to those awaiting the arrival of the motorcycles after their scheduled arrival time. We also appreciate the use of the 146.88 repeater for this event.

220 motorcycles with 380 participants stretched over a mile on the road and raised $40,350 for brain tumor research – up 73% from 2004.

Many thanks to my fellow hams!
Rod (AB4RG) & Maxine Gilvey

The Hardy Boys' Shortwave Mystery by Franklin W. Dixon

"Aardvark Bulldog Aardvark Bulldog" blares from the receiver of WB2XEJ, Frank Hardy, the older of the two teenage detective brothers. So begins a tale of intrigue and mystery that involves ham radio, cryptography, radio direction finding, taxidermy and Sherlock Holmes detective logic. And ends with Frank and Joe Hardy, the sons of the famous detective father, cracking a case that involves attempted murder, robbery and crafty industrial espionage. Just think what it would be like to be Frank and Joe, riding in their cool convertible with a mobile ham rig; getting a note from their Dad to be excused from class to fly to the Canadian outback to investigate a clue; and solving the case for the police, who always seem clueless, if not one step behind the brothers. And even though they are touched by the evil likes of Soapy Moran, they are never tempted by the underworld. And they even manage to help a young friend turn from the dark side to clean up his act and do better in school. And all with ham radio as a central theme.

Wow, what a thrilling life for these young detectives. I'm so glad my daughter Lauren, who is reading all the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries now, suggested I read The Shortwave Mystery. With all the technology and CNN-like events, you would think it was written recently, and not in 1945. But, it's still a great mystery and worth an afternoon read on a Spring day. Available through the Wake County Public Library system.

-Submitted by Bob Conder K4RLC

Why Check-In On 64?

Why check-in to the nightly, 8:00pm RARS 2-Meter Net on the 146.64 repeater? Well, I can think of many reasons. For instance, it gives you the opportunity to hear what daily events or activities area hams have experienced or different involvements. It gives you a chance to share something about yourself. It brings people who share a common interest (amateur radio) closer together. Who knows, you just may learn something about the hams you talk to from time to time or are in your own community. It's a great place to bring an announcement for others to hear concerning upcoming Hamfests, public service events, club meetings, or just about anything else you can think of that others might find interesting. If you feel you have nothing to contribute to the Net on a particular evening, you can still sit back and just listen but consider at least checking in and out. By checking in and out, you will be adding a participant count to the Net report for that evening. The Net Control Stations that facilitate the Nets are always interested in keeping their particular Net counts up, as is the RARS Net Manager. If you read the Exciter cover to cover like I do, you'll notice the participant counts for the month are tracked along with the duration of the sessions. So, you are encouraged to check in as often as possible and you will find that you are always welcome to be a part of the Net. So, listen each evening around 8:00pm for those infamous words "Calling the RARS 2 Meter Net" and check in and say hello to your fellow hobbyists.

Also, let's not forget about the weekly SWL/Scanner SIG (Special Interest Group) Net every Monday at 9:00pm, or the weekly Tech and Traders Net every Saturday at 8:30pm. There is always a great deal of information to listen to and a variety of topics covered during these two special interest Nets. Some of the regular Net Control Stations you're likely to hear are; KG4OQA-Mary (RARS Net Manager), K4DAW-Denyse, NC4VA-Virginia, WX4MMM-Bob, KD4ISC-Dick, KG4SWI-John, KF4HQS-Richard, AE4FG-Kelly, KE4PNT-Randy, KD4SLQ-Wayne, AB4OZ-Alan, and W4TTO-Joe.

73 and glad you stopped by and checked in.....

Joe W4TTO

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Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for April 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on April 19, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Bob Breyer, K1RCB, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX.

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He then thanked Hank K4HM, the hamfest committee and all those who helped make RARSfest 2005 a success.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Denyse K4DAW, the March Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

* The paperwork for formalizing the use of the RTP Nortel facility for radio classes still has not been completed. Dick will work to get this taken care of with Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO as soon as possible. Bob K1RCB advised that the Raleigh Fire Training Center may be available for classes and will follow up on this idea.

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report.

* There are currently 269 club members.

Committee Reports

Exciter – Denyse K4DAW reported the May Exciter should be printed and ready for the mail.

Webmaster – Dick W8HYD reported that Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT has offered to fill in as RARS Webmaster. Jon addressed the group and advised he will be making updates to the webpage soon.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised the hamfest was well received. There were good comments from vendors and patrons. Attendance was down slightly from last year and is in line with the ongoing downturn in hamfest attendance. Expenses this year were higher (as expected) than last year. A summary of the financials for the hamfest will be available once all of the data is compiled. A picnic for all of the hamfest workers is in the works and a date and location will be announced at a later time. Chuck K4HF advised a poll was taken during the hamfest and the results will be analyzed and presented at a later meeting.

Public Service – Bob K1RCB advised there was good radio coverage provided for the April 9 MS walk at RTP. He then reported that he needs help in covering the May 15 motorcycle event and July 4 bicycle ride. He agreed to hold further discussion for new business.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised there have been no restructuring updates. He also reported a lot of activity at the QSL checking area of the hamfest.

Unfinished Business

Dick W8HYD reported that he still needs to check with the church officials to see if they have Bruce Buck's (KC4UQN) extension cord from an earlier meeting.

Dick KD4ISC asked if Jon's (KG4ZVT) webmaster position was an appointment or a nomination to the membership for a vote. It was determined that Jon is being appointed to the position.

New Business

Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX, addressed the group. He explained his involvement with Powell Elementary and the work he has done there with amateur radio. He requested that RARS sponsor a radio station at the school through the ARRL. He also asked that RARS contribute $200 to the ARRL Bookshelf which would provide $300 worth of books for the school's station. Steve will be pursuing additional grants for equipment for the elementary school. The station will also be used to teach an elective ham radio class during the school year for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Bob K1RCB made a motion that RARS sponsor the Powell Elementary School radio station and provide the $200 for the ARRL Bookshelf grant. A second was provided by Dick W8HYD. A vote was taken and carried in favor of the motion.

Jim K4FIJ, provided a review of the comments received from the Exciter poll taken at the last general membership meeting.

Bob K1RCB asked that the Board pursue a new Public Service Coordinator. His schedule and plans to move from the area are not allowing for time to handle the public service events on hand. Dick W8HYD advised he would offload the two upcoming public service events and the group would pursue a replacement coordinator.

Greg KE4PAX advised that it was time to schedule a financial review of the club's books. Jim K4FIJ, Hank K4HM and Chuck K4HF offered to assist with the review. They will determine a time convenient to them to meet and take care of this task.

Greg KE4PAX provided an initial draft for the 2005-2006 budget. The group discussed the proposal and suggested revisions as needed. A second review will be conducted during the May meeting in preparation to present the budget to the membership in June.

General Comments

Gary KN4AQ requested help in delivering the unclaimed hamfest prizes. Hank K4HM will deliver the IC706 and Bob K1RCB will ship the IC2100H.

Greg KE4PAX asked if the club wants to pursue purchasing the Midland base station radio from Bob K1RCB for the Red Cross. It was agreed to delay discussion until the next meeting.

Selene KG4RMT asked about the topic for the May general meeting program. It was reported that Field Day and a hamfest roundup would be the topics.

Hank K4HM again thanked everyone for their work on RARSfest.

Denyse K4DAW reported the Skywarn table got a lot of attention at the hamfest as did the Skywarn forum.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Bob K1RCB initiated discussions which lead to the agreement that Greg KE4PAX should have a key to the club's post office box and offsite storage area.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

A VHF/UHF Observation

by Joe – W4TTO

How do we fare when it comes to local communications and area repeater usage? Allow me to share a tid-bit or two;

In March of this year, I had the pleasure and opportunity of attending the SWL Winterfest in Kulpsville, PA. This is an annual event focused primarily on the shortwave listening hobby. In addition to shortwave listener hobbyists, this annual event is also attended by scanner and amateur radio enthusiasts alike who also have a passion for shortwave radio. Kulpsville is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia. During the two-day event, I had the opportunity to discuss amateur radio with several of the local hams that live in and around the Philadelphia area who were also in attendance. I inquired about that area's VHF/UHF activity. The local hams reported that there is very little activity on any of the area's 2-meter or 440 repeaters. Local rag-chew nets are almost non-existent. This surprised me because one would think that due to the population density of this area, there would be a tremendous amount of activity. Some of the hams expressed a desire to discuss the day's events or share a community topic of interest with others, especially while driving to and from work but rarely could because no one was ever around on these bands. Now, HF is great but not always suited for local communications.

I then proceeded to tell these folks about our area's hams, repeaters, and nets. I mentioned RARS and how we have a nightly rag-chew net 7 nights a week with typically 15-20 or more check-ins. I mentioned the PCTN nightly traffic net, SKYWARN information net, ARES net, the weekly SWL/Scanner special interest net, the 440 rag-chew net, etc., etc., etc. I then noticed utter amazement on their faces, which was quickly followed by envy. What I found out from my visit to the Philadelphia area is that we are very fortunate to have so much activity and radio diversity in our area on the VHF and UHF bands. What really makes it special however, are the people who do the day to day VHF/UHF communications, the people who check into the area nets, and the fine folks who belong to one or more of the above mentioned organizations. I for one appreciate the participation from so many wonderful hams.

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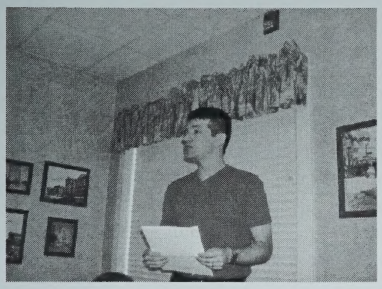
The Central Carolina Skywarn Net Meets Tuesdays at 9:15 pm on 146.88 Repeater

www.ccskywarn.net

SKYWARN NEWS

SKYWARN DINNER

Next dinner will be announced



Skywarn Dinner

The Skywarn dinner was held on May 22, 2005. Darin Figurskey of the NWS (at left) was the guest speaker bringing us an update on the hurricane season. March was very active in severe weather but so far there has been less severe weather the last couple months. Be prepared for an active hurricane season, which starts June 1.

ARES - An Overview

Tom N4TAB

Why is our emergency communications capability so important? The answer is found in the second paragraph of Part 97 of the FCC rules: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as **a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." As amateurs, we have a federal mandate to be there and help when our nation needs us!**

We also have a moral obligation to help out when needed. We amateurs have some training in communications skills, and our equipment is not as dependent on the fixed infrastructure. To this end, there needs to be a framework for us to use to effectively provide communications support to the nation. In North Carolina, that framework is ARES™, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, which is part of the ARRL's Field Organization. ARES™ consists of: willing amateurs, HF and VHF nets, and agreements with some of our served agencies. At the national level, there are Memorandums of Understanding between the ARRL and our served agencies like FEMA/DHS and the American Red Cross, while at the State and local levels, there are MOUs signed with North Carolina Emergency Management and local emergency management agencies. Also, note that Skywarn's amateur radio component is from an MOU between the ARRL and the NWS/NOAA, and is part of ARES™. For maximum effectiveness, North Carolina ARES™ reflects the layout of our primary served agency, NCEM. Wake County is unusual in that we have both the NCEM and Wake County Emergency Management Agency to support, along with the shared support load of the NCEM Central Branch Office in Butner. This is such a heavy load on the leadership personnel that we have had to split the load between two Emergency Coordinators for Wake County, along with several Assistant Emergency Coordinators that assist them in operational matters.

ARES™ does not usually activate on it's own. In almost all cases, ARES™ activates at the request of a served agency. We can, however, independently go to a standby status if we deem that an activation request is likely.
At the state level, we provide a secondary communications channel for NCEM and other agencies, using both VHF and HF frequencies. With regards to county level operations, most of our actual activations have been weather related, providing communications for disaster shelters opened by Wake County Emergency Management. Although we have handled some emergency and priority level traffic, the main portion of the message traffic we handle is related to shelter operations. Training for ARES™ members is provided primarily via radio nets. The weekly Wake County ARES net is on Thursdays on the 146.88 repeater (negative offset and no tone), a few minutes after the conclusion of the Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net (PCTN). We try and provide participants with training regarding radio and technical issues, ARES™ operations, and Emergency Management & Preparedness / Civil Defense issues. This net is also used for operational briefings, problem solving, and ragchews. Further information on ARES can be found at http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html, http://www.ncarrl.org/ares, and http://www.wakeares.org.

The RARS
Exciter
July 2005

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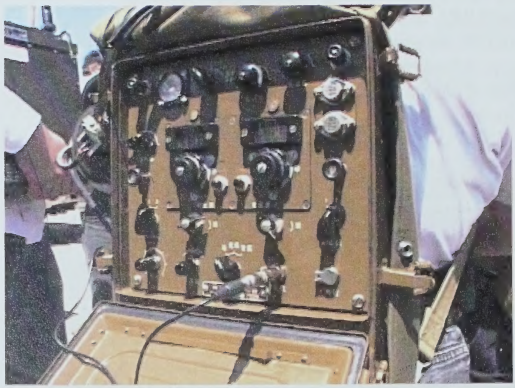
DAYTON OHIO HAMVENTION 2005



Chinese backpack HF rig, seen in operation in the flea market at the Dayton Hamvention.

Shuttles from the mall were available.

Photos by Gary KN4AQ